

In the claims:

In line 1 of claims ~~1~~ and 133-197, please delete [Apparatus] and replace it with -System--.

In addition, please amend claims 1, 133 and 188 as follows:

- F1
1. (Four Times Amended) [Apparatus] System for controlling the placement of a shear-thinnable polymer composition into a porous web, having a three dimensional structure of a plurality of structural elements with interstitial spaces therebetween, comprising:
- means for pretreating and impregnating the porous web with a fluorochemical;
 - means for applying tension to the porous web;
 - means for applying a curable, shear-thinnable, polymer composition onto one surface of the tensioned web; and
 - means for shear thinning the polymer composition to substantially reduce its viscosity and selectively place it into the tensioned web to encapsulate at least some of the structural elements of the porous web by enveloping exposed surface portions of the structural elements[, thereby only partially filling most of the interstitial spaces between said structural elements].

- F2
- 2 ~~133~~. (Thrice Amended) [Apparatus] System for controlling the placement of a shear-thinnable polymer composition into a porous web, having a three dimensional structure of a plurality of structural elements with interstitial spaces therebetween and a three dimensional top surface opposed from a three dimensional bottom surface, comprising:
- means for pretreating and impregnating the porous web with a fluorochemical;
 - means for applying tension to the web;
 - means for applying a curable, shear-thinnable, polymer composition onto one surface of the tensioned web;
 - blade means for engaging said one surface of the tensioned web;
 - means for moving the web relative to said blade means; and
 - means for controlling said tension applying means and said blade means to shear thin the polymer composition to substantially reduce its viscosity and to selectively place it into

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the tensioned web to encapsulate at least some of the structural elements of the porous web by enveloping exposed surface portions of the structural elements[, thereby only partially filling most of the interstitial spaces between said structural elements].

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(Thrice Amended) [Apparatus] System for controlled placement of a shear-thinnable polymer composition into a porous web, having a three dimensional structure of a plurality of structural elements with interstitial spaces therebetween, comprising:

means for pretreating and impregnating the porous web with a fluorochemical;

means for advancing [a]the porous web;

means for applying tension to the porous web;

means for applying a curable, shear-thinnable, polymer composition to the web;

means for shear thinning the polymer composition to reduce its viscosity and place it to encapsulate at least some of the structural elements of the porous web by enveloping exposed surface portions of the structural elements[, thereby only partially filling most of the interstitial spaces between said structural elements];

means for controlling the tension of the porous web during shear thinning of said polymer composition into said web; and

means for curing the polymer composition within the porous web.

Please add new claims 198-215.

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(New) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein pretreating and impregnating the porous web with said fluorochemical results in strengthening the adherence of the polymer composition to the web.

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(New) The system as set forth in claim ~~198~~ wherein pretreating and impregnating with a fluorochemical comprises saturating the web with a liquid composition containing the fluorochemical and removing excess liquid composition by draining compression or drying.

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(New) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein said polymer composition is a silicone polymer composition including a platinum catalyst.

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(New) The system as set forth in claim ~~200~~ wherein said polymer composition further includes at least one vinyl substituted polymer.

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(New) The system as set forth in claim ~~201~~ wherein said polymer composition further includes at least one organo-hydro-silane polysiloxane.

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(New) The system as set forth in claim ~~202~~ wherein said polymer composition further includes fillers and additives.

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(New) The system as set forth in claim ~~133~~ wherein pretreating and impregnating the porous web with said fluorochemical results in strengthening the adherence of the polymer composition to the web.

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(New) The system as set forth in claim ~~204~~ wherein pretreating and impregnating with said fluorochemical comprises saturating the web with a liquid composition containing the fluorochemical and removing excess liquid composition by draining compression or drying.

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(New) The system as set forth in claim ~~133~~ wherein said polymer composition is a silicone polymer composition including a platinum catalyst.

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(New) The system as set forth in claim ~~206~~ wherein said polymer composition further includes at least one vinyl substituted polymer.

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(New) The system as set forth in claim ~~207~~ wherein said polymer composition further includes at least one organo-hydro-silane polysiloxane.

⁷³
~~209.~~ (New) The system as set forth in claim ~~208~~⁷⁷ wherein said polymer composition further includes fillers and additives.

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~~210.~~ (New) The system as set forth in claim ~~188~~⁵⁷ wherein pretreating and impregnating the porous web with said fluorochemical results in strengthening the adherence of the polymer composition to the web.

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~~211.~~ (New) The system as set forth in claim ~~210~~⁷⁹ wherein pretreating and impregnating with said fluorochemical comprises saturating the web with a liquid composition containing the fluorochemical and removing excess liquid composition by draining compression or drying.

⁸¹
~~212.~~ (New) The system as set forth in claim ~~188~~⁵⁷ wherein said polymer composition is a silicone polymer composition including a platinum catalyst.

⁸²
~~213.~~ (New) The system as set forth in claim ~~212~~⁸¹ wherein said polymer composition further includes at least one vinyl substituted polymer.

⁸³
~~214.~~ (New) The system as set forth in claim ~~213~~⁸² wherein said polymer composition further includes at least one organo-hydro-silane polysiloxane.

⁸⁴
~~215.~~ (New) The system as set forth in claim ~~214~~⁸³ wherein said polymer composition further includes fillers and additives.